

# Mme. Storch—Vampire and Ger



Vladek Zbyszko, the Polish Wrestler, Who Was Detained by the United States Government Agents for Military Reasons, but Subsequently Released. And, in Smaller Panel, George Lurich, the Russian Wrestler, Who Furnished Information Concerning Spy Activities in New York, and Has Since Been the Victim of Attempted Assassination in Russia.



## (Continued from Last Sunday) CHAPTER VIII.

IN previous chapters of these revelations we have seen how the fascinating Mme. Storch, the beautiful German arch-spy, with the manicured toenails, pursued her spy work in this country for the German Government. We have seen how she attained her ends by exercising her personal charms upon wealthy idlers, foreign noblemen and susceptible men of all kinds. We have seen how her popularity in the hectic nocturnal circles of New York marvellously aided her plots.

But there was much more work of this kind to be done for the German Government than could be done by one woman alone, however resourceful. It was desired to inveigle other beautiful women into the same career of intrigue and wickedness. In securing and co-operating with such sirens Mme. Storch was wonderfully successful. She was the great organizer of personal debauchery for Germany. Through such women they planned apparently to demoralize the military services of all foreign countries.

America was, of course, an essential source of military supplies to the allies. Without us they could hardly have resisted the onslaught of German power planned for fifty years. Especially were we necessary to vast, unorganized, unprepared Russia.

An essential service of German spies in America was to interfere with American shipments to the allies, to misguide and betray allied officers if possible, to obtain information concerning the departure of ships carrying munitions to the allies, to disorganize the manufacture of munitions and to bring about the destruction of the factories producing them. In this line of work Mme. Storch performed marvels for Germany, but through very indirect methods.

We all know the tragedy of Russia's collapse in the war—how after unparalleled sacrifices her armies melted away, her national unity was destroyed and the whole country fell into chaos and became a helpless victim of Germany.

It is now known that the hundreds of millions spent in this country by Russia for munitions were largely wasted, that ships destined for Russia were eventually delivered into the hands of the Germans, that supplies of enormous value were accumulated uselessly in Russian ports until they were spoiled or destroyed by German plotters. Not infrequently the information gathered here concerning munitions proved a guide to the Germans concerning vital Russian military plans, and some of the greatest Russian disasters are directly traceable to the leakage from this country.

In this task of deranging Russian plans through America Mme. Storch labored with diabolical ingenuity and success, as we shall see. She did not exert her influence directly upon Russian officers, but through Russian women, who were better able to play upon the weaknesses of their victims. These Russian women were sent to her by the German Government, and it was her task to introduce them to New York's gay society and to facilitate their work in every way.

### Enter Mlle. Mirolubskaya, the Talented Russian Charmer

And now into this drama of intrigue and bloodshed enters a remarkable Russian woman—Mlle. Sophie Mirolubskaya, a former member of the famous Russian Imperial Ballet. She lived in New York in 1915 and 1916, occupied luxurious apartments at several fashionable houses and hotels and enjoyed great popularity among a certain lively, cosmopolitan social set.

Mme. Storch met her in New York, and they became intimate friends. They were introduced by a person of social position representing the German Government. Their habits and tastes were very similar. Mlle. Mirolubskaya was not strictly beautiful, but she possessed in a high degree the physical attractions which are so general among the Russian ballet dancers. She appeared to enjoy unlimited money, did not attempt to practice her art in New York, and lived as if she had no object in life but to amuse herself.

Many details concerning Mlle. Mirolubskaya's activities in this country have been furnished to the various

READERS of this page are already familiar with the history of the career of Mme. Nerie Storch, one of the most valued and highly paid spies in the German Secret Service, as it has been told from week to week. After six years of successful activity in all the great capitals of Europe, Mme. Storch was trapped recently in the Biltmore Hotel, in New York City, by agents of the United States Department of Justice.

Her childhood experiences in the harem, her years of gay life among the profligates of the most licentious society in Europe and her establishment in Paris by the German Foreign Office in an expensive setting of servants, equipages and admirers were narrated in previous chapters. Her enlistment of the pretty dancer, Mlle. Mata-Hari, as a spy and the latter's execution by a firing squad; the debauchery of Mlle. Susy Detsy and this young woman's tragic fate as a spy; her intrigues with Raisuli, the Moroccan bandit, and the tragic deaths of two of Spain's proudest noblemen, who had become her lovers and dupes, her sinister activities in Petrograd and then England, were also related, and a further chapter is added to-day.

United States secret service bureaus by George Lurich, a noted Russian wrestler, who gave exhibitions in this country in 1915 and 1916 and called himself "Champion Wrestler of the World." He has sent his information from Russia, and it has been presented to the secret service agents by his representatives. According to last accounts, he was having serious difficulties of his own at home.

Taste has broadened so remarkably in New York in recent years that it is no longer surprising to find professional athletes mingling with persons of education and good social position. Like many other athletes of abnormal physical development, Lurich exerted a marked attraction for women of apparent refinement. He and several other wrestlers were often favored guests at entertainments given by Mme. Storch, Mlle. Mirolubskaya and their friends of upper Bohemian society.

Astonishing accounts have been brought to the investigators of fantastic revels in New York, in which a mixed throng of Russian actresses, officers, noblemen, noblewomen, professional athletes and spies caroused until the small hours of the morning.

In a matter covering such a considerable period of time—two years at least—and the activities of so many persons it is not surprising that some misleading clues should have been brought to the secret service agents, and many lines of investigation followed which yielded little. In some cases doubtless the agents were made victims of over-zealous persons who were eager to run down every possible case of interest to the government.

### The Strange Doings of a Brilliant Russian Officer

An instance of this apparently was the case of Vladek Zbyszko, the well-known Polish wrestler. After giving one of his wrestling exhibitions in Boston he was arrested by government agents and taken to Ellis Island, New York. He was detained there several days, closely questioned, but was released after three days' detention. At one time Zbyszko gave wrestling exhibitions with Lurich, which may account for the interest taken in him.

The information furnished by Lurich and his friends concerns chiefly the doings of Mlle. Mirolubskaya and Colonel N. V. Nekrassov, a brilliant officer, at one time connected with the Russian War Mission in the United States. It is stated that Nekrassov fell completely under the domination of the Russian dancer; that through him she was enabled to obtain information about Russia's plans, and that this information was communicated to Mme. Storch, who passed it on to Germany.

The prolongation of the war may be due mainly to this intrigue. Through this information, it is asserted, the victorious advance of the Grand Duke Nicholas into Austrian Poland was brought to a disastrous end and the Germans were enabled to advance into Russian Poland and capture Warsaw. The trial of General Soukhomlinoff, the Russian War Minister, amply proved that German propaganda and spy work had played a great part in ruining Russia's armies. The Germans were informed often a month in advance when Russian offensives were about to take place, and they were guided to places where they could capture Russian ammunition, guns and supplies. A Russian officer named Colonel Miassoyedoff was hanged for imparting information to the Germans and General Soukhomlinoff was sentenced to life imprisonment for wrecking the national defence. The facts concerning these cases have already been related here.

Now it was the contention of Wrestler George Lurich and his friends that much of the information that ruined the Russian armies reached Germany by way of New York. During his experience of night life in this city he became thoroughly familiar with the astonishing revels of Russian officers and doubtful characters whom he learned to be German spies. The patriotic Russian boiled with indignation at what he discovered, and he devoted himself to exposing the intrigue. It is said that he spent thousands of dollars—he made a small fortune while here—in his investigations.

The Black Tom explosion in New York harbor, the Canadian Car and Foundry fire at Arlington, N. J., and the great disaster at the Eddystone (Pa.) munition factory occurred after meetings between Mme. Storch and her Russian victims and confederates.

It is established that these explosions destroyed thousands of tons of ammunition destined for Russia. An order for 5,000,000 3-inch shells, intended for the Grand Duke Nicholas's field artillery, was never completed owing to the Canadian Car and Foundry fire. An order for 1,500,000 rifles and 2,000,000,000 cartridges came to nothing in the Eddystone disaster. In this way the Grand Duke's

campaign was stopped and great masses of Russian soldiers were sent into battle without arms to lose their lives in a hopeless struggle.

Mme. Storch and Mlle. Mirolubskaya met frequently at dinner and supper parties at the Savoy, Waldorf and other fashionable hotels. Foreign officers and rich young women were usually in their company. They were seen together at the opera, and the same set often made automobile trips to country inns near New York.

Mlle. Mirolubskaya had one apartment in West Ninety-seventh street, and a Bohemian studio in Washington Square. She gave different kinds of entertainments in different settings. She was a woman of re-



Mata-Hari, the Fascinating Oriental Dancer, Who Was Germany's Chief Woman Spy in Paris, as Mme. Storch Was in New York, and Fell Before a French Firing Party in the Old Chateau of Vincennes

markably diversified talents, for she was not only a trained dancer, but an experienced chemist, masseuse, nurse, actress, musician and devotee of Rasputin's corrupt religion. Through the practice of the mad rites of this cult in her New York apartments she fastened her clutches upon her victims and made them reveal information which they should have kept sacred. She had several apartments in New York besides the two just mentioned.

One evening in October, 1916, Lurich was dining at the Ritz Carlton Hotel. At another table he saw his gay countrywoman, Mlle. Mirolubskaya, with Mme. Storch and a party of officers. At another table sat no less a person than Count Bernstorff, the great diplomatic schemer of Germany. This hotel was his headquarters in New York, and his saturnine features were familiar to every frequenter of it. As Mme. Storch raised her glass of champagne to her lips the Count raised his, and a look of intelligence passed between them.

Every gay, attractive and fashionable resort in New York saw Mlle. Mirolubskaya and her coterie. The Biltmore, Sherry's, Rector's were favored, as well as the others named. By living thus publicly the conspirators created the impression that they were mere butterflies of pleasure, and increased their opportunities of learning secrets.

One evening at the Plaza Mme. Storch was seen in

A Remarkable Picture of Bolo Pacha, the Arch-Traitor of the Ground of Vincennes. Bolo Was Extremely Proud of His White Gloves at His Execution, as Shown

tears holding the hand of Colonel Nekrassov. She wanted something very badly from the Russian officer, and from his manner she evidently secured it.

"These conspirators in New York," Lurich has written to a friend, "were working to prevent Russia from receiving American ammunition and to sink Russian ammunition ships between American and Russian ports. They were also plotting to make American ammunition unfit for Russian use, to provide soft iron bayonets, shells filled with sand, and, in fact, to make everything useless and dangerous. They succeeded to a terrible extent. Above all, they were aiming to obtain maps of Russian fortresses and plans of army movements, which they turned over to the Germans."

There were many channels through which Russia's war secrets reached New York, and all the facts cannot yet be given. At War Minister Soukhomlinoff's trial in Petrograd it was shown that with criminal carelessness he had left military documents of vital importance lying about on tables at his office and home.

Both places were thronged with a miscellaneous crowd of persons—brokers seeking war commissions and women of doubtful antecedents. Many of these were undoubtedly German spies.

The munitions brokers were privileged to cable freely in a commercial code to New York and America concerning orders, and there was no close scrutiny of their messages. It is now realized that information concerning conditions at the front, strength of forces and war movements was transmitted in this way.

In New York a corresponding circle to that which ruined war efficiency in Petrograd was waiting. It consisted of other munition brokers, designing women and at least one Russian officer. There was little in an evening party at Mlle. Mirolubskaya's apartments to suggest military movements, but charges are made that secret affecting the fate of thousands of Russian soldiers he passed to Mme. Storch on their way to Germany.

One great tragedy of the war that is still surrounded with much mystery was the death of Lord Kitchener,